

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully traverse and request reconsideration.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the notice that claims 20-27 and 34-38 are allowed. Applicants' attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephone conference of January 25, 2010.

Claims 7, 10, 11, 14 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over So in view of Assouad. Applicants have amended the independent claims to note that the bus on the substrate between the CPU and northbridge operates at a native CPU bus rate. This is different from prior art systems such as the system of So. The So reference is directed to an integrated circuit that uses multiple separate chips such as a single chip for use with a first processor that is off-chip, and terminals for a first processor's related signals that define a first data width, additional terminals for external bus related signals (PCI) and third terminals for memory related signals, and a DRAM memory controller connected to the third terminals. The So reference describes a conventional prior art implementation employing a separate CPU integrated circuit, separate Northbridge circuit, separate Southbridge circuit and other integrated circuits that were conventional at the time. Such systems were generally described in Applicants' "Background of the Invention" section. So, like other prior art solutions, require for example, an off-chip interfacing bus, corresponding drivers and receivers and additional pin count on the separate integrated circuits to effectively down shift to another bus protocol and bus rate that is slower than the internal native CPU bus rate. Applicants claim a different structure.

So does not contemplate or describe in the cited portions, any central processing unit on the same substrate as a Northbridge, which also contains a bus on the substrate that is operably coupled between the central processing unit and a Northbridge on the substrate as claimed that operates at a native CPU bus rate.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the below-listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

/Christopher J. Reckamp/

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By: _____
Christopher J. Reckamp
Registration No. 34,414

Vedder Price P.C.
222 N. LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60601
PHONE: (312) 609-7599
FAX: (312) 609-5005